

CHAT OF THE SEASON.

There is nothing more useful than a black net or black lace dress for summer wear, as it can be used for all occasions, being equally appropriate for church wear, for a garden party, or with another waist for an evening entertainment. As lace is very crushable, and is apt to look stringy after a bit, it is well to keep to very simple lines in its cut, and the full sleeves should be wired at the shoulders with black bonnet-ribbons, to hold the flimsy substance in shape. A very

The art of polishing furniture is little understood in this country, and the waitress or chambermaid is too likely to consider it a superfluous duty, or one which should be done by a regular furniture polisher. In England, it is one of the regular duties of a servant to keep the tabletop polished. For this pur-

also food from your hands. The brown-thrasher is another sociable bird, which frequently builds her nest near the haunts of men, and is known to have allowed little children, who have gained her confidence, to feed her out of her nest. Some people seem to be so fond of gaining the love of these little wild creatures near the woods. Even a creature with so little intelligence as our common fox may be trained to know the difference between individuals, and will sit for hours while you scratch his back and feed fish to him. Even the squirrel, the most timid and wary of all wild creatures, soon learns confidence from kindness. A chipmunk, which is so rapidi in its movements, that one hardly gets a sight of it in the wild woods, has been so tamed in one of the summer encampments, that it will sit on the hand of its human friend and has taken nuts from her hand. He was careful to fill his cheek pouches so full of nuts that he presented a very ludicrous appearance as he trotted off eagerly to his winter storehouse to put away his provisions. The little creature came back time and again with perfect confidence, till the store of nuts was gone. The gray squirrel is very frequently tame when he gets among the haunts of man, either in our city parks or in some of the summer encampments. He always seems to wonder about the ways to distinguish friends and enemies, and will play the most amusing pranks when his confidence is once given. Naturalists tell us he is not a very intelligent animal, yet, like the rabbit, he is so pretty in his manners, and so dainty in his appearance, that he is certain to win your heart. The gray squirrel in

"Huckleberry" will soon be in market, and despite their plebeian reputation, are a valuable addition to the few fruits which have enjoyed a widespread popularity and pies have long enjoyed a surreptitious meal from the leftovers of huckleberries and milk, and who can despise this humble fruit who reveals the pastoral flavor of a luncheon of this kind, served with crackers or with slices of the sweetest homemade bread and butter? It is not necessary to rehearse the delights of huckleberry pie to any one born in Vanikee land, where this berry flourishes, even in cold-faded November. It may be a comfort to the most stony hill-sides, where huckleberries and straw-berry both refuse to grow. It may be a comfort to those who sometimes are sometimes corrected by their more pedantic sisters, to know that the correct name for this berry is "huckleberry" and not "whortleberry." It belongs to the whortleberry sub-order, but the genuine whortleberry is a native of Europe, and is known in Germany as *Urtica*, or health berry. It was even known among old saxon ancestors, who called it the *harmless*. "Huckleberry" is the only familiar name for this fruit given by Gray's botanical dictionary. The great American planter, and goes far to convert the most confirmed dyspeptic into the advocacy of pastry. Let the crust be the lightest and flakiest which cold water, pastry flour, and the best of fresh butter will make. Line a sufficient number of pie plates with paste. It is all the better if they are perforated in the bottom so as to allow the under-crust to brown more thoroughly. When the pie plate

One of the most treasured trellises which can be had is one covered with old-fashioned sweet peas of the painted lady variety with its pink and white blossoms and exquisite fragrance. A bed of this kind may be easily obtained if the peas are sowed late in the fall or as soon as the ground is open in the spring. If the peas are sowed in the fall, the ground over them should be well covered with fertilizer and they should be not in late enough to prevent their sprouting before frost.

Sweet peas require a sunny exposure and rich ground. The best fertilizer which can be put on them is the kitchen ash poured over the roots, but not on the leaves. This treatment will bring about miracles of bloom and fragrance during the summer. It is

